

Allison Janney did on West Wing—the first show ever to portray politics with something approaching the complexity it deserves. Your challenge is to produce and perform the rich imaginative works that move and illuminate your time.

Kenyon has vastly expanded its science programs. And your challenge is to fight in laboratories against enemies like the tiny HIV virus that has created the most devastating epidemic in human history—killing more people every two hours than there are in this graduating class.

At a time when we read about the high-tech jobs of a globalized world, your challenge is to find a way to educate the millions of Americans who can't get those jobs because they can't read well enough to understand how to get online.

And now, we are engaged in a misguided war. Like the war of my generation, it began with an official deception. It's a war that in addition to the human cost—the tragedy of tens of thousands of Iraqis and Americans dead and wounded—will cost a trillion dollars. Enough to endow 10,000 Kenyons. Money that could fight poverty, disease, and hunger. And so, your challenge is also to find a way to reclaim America's conscience. I have no doubt you will.

For one thing you have great role models. Like your parents, sitting out there under the trees. You may laugh looking at the old photos of your dad in a ponytail, and your mom in bellbottoms and that crazy, tie-dyed shirt. But their generation too faced the task of ending a war. And they did.

And went on to invent Earth Day, march against racism, bring women into the workplace and become the first generation to usher in an acceptance for all people regardless of race, religion, gender or sexuality.

They honored democracy by making government face issues of conscience—and I ask you to applaud them for making the world better BEFORE they made it better by making you what you are!

And of course, in addition to those sitting behind you—you have great role models sitting among you. Students from this class who had a dream, took a chance, and have already achieved great things.

I know, because sitting here is a student who dreamed of being published, and felt ambitious enough to send a poem he'd written for class to the Chataqua Literary Journal. And so Sam Anderson became a published poet at the age of 21.

I know, because sitting here is a student who, watched a cousin struggle with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, dreamed of finding a way to help—and designed a project that involved her with the leading DMD researcher in the world. Now Amy Aloe's been invited to work in his ground-breaking lab.

I know, because sitting here is a student who dreamed of returning to the country of her birth, the country that shaped a part of my life. And in Vietnam, Nhu Truong could examine not just issues, but the more difficult job of examining herself.

They all took a chance. If you ever despair of making a difference you'll have Kenyon people to remind you of what's possible if you take that chance.

And not just from the class of '06.

One of the alums mentioned that every week, a group of them meet to talk about issues. They don't think alike about every idea, he said. But they share a passion for ideas they learned here. Another asked me to tell those of you suspicious of government, that "it's made up of a lot of people like us, trying to make things better."

The group included one alum who's well known here—and getting well known in Washington. But a while back he was just a nervous 24-year old, sitting silently in a

meeting with a new Secretary of State. Until he got up the nerve to raise his hand and make a point. "Who's that young, red-haired kid?" Condoleezza Rice said afterward, to an aide. "Keep your eye on him." No, she didn't mean he was a security risk. He'd said something that, as a Washington Post reporter put it, "crystallized her thoughts about foreign policy." And now Chris Brose, Kenyon 2002, travels everywhere with Secretary Rice, not just crafting her speeches but talking about policy. I wish the policies were a little different, but he's making a mark. He's making a difference.

You know, during World War II, my father was flying planes in the Army Air Corps. While he was away on duty, my mother was volunteering to care for the sick and wounded. She sent him a letter about it. "You have no idea of the ways in which one can be useful right now," she wrote. "There's something for everyone to do." She was right about her time. And what she wrote is right about yours too.

In a few minutes you will walk across this stage for your diploma. You'll line up on the steps of Rosse Hall to sing for the last time. You'll turn in your hoods, go back and finish packing. Maybe sell that ratty sofa to somebody from the class of 2007. And then you'll watch the cars pull away.

I know you've heard too many times the old saying that commencement is not an end but a beginning. The truth is, it's both. It is a day to feel sad about leaving Gambier. It's a day to feel eager about what lies ahead.

Because you have a special mission. Those who worked to end a war long ago, now ask you to help end a war today. Those who worked to end poverty ask you to finish what we have left undone. We ask you to take a chance. We ask you to work for change. Promise yourselves, promise your parents, promise your teachers that you will use what you have learned. Don't doubt for an instant that you can. Only doubt those pessimists who say you can't. For all along the way, I promise, that while you leave the campus, Kenyon will never leave you.

You will be linked by the experiences vividly brought to life today by Hayes Wong, who experienced them with you.

As you fight for justice in this world, you will be linked by the insights you all had in courses like Quest for Justice. You will be linked to classmates whose success you predict will take the world by storm—and to some whose success takes you by surprise. You will be linked by the times you sat on a bench in Middle Path and argued about politics with people whose views you opposed—and learned you could disagree and still be friends. At some point you'll see that this small campus that changed you has already produced enormous change in the world.

But much more is urgently needed.

Remember that the bedrock of America's greatest advances—the foundation of all we take for granted today—was formed not by cheering on things as they were, but by taking them on and demanding change. No wonder Thomas Jefferson himself said that "dis-sent is the highest form of patriotism."

So if you're not satisfied with the dialogue today, if you feel your issues are being ignored, speak out, act out, and make your issues the voting issues of our nation.

You might say, "who's he kidding? We can't do that." Well, I remember when you couldn't even mention environmental issues without a snicker. But then in the '70s people got tired of seeing the Cuyahoga River catch on fire from all the pollution. So one day millions of Americans marched. Politicians had no choice but to take notice. Twelve Congressmen were dubbed the Dirty Dozen, and soon after seven were kicked out of office. The floodgates were opened. We got The

Clean Air Act, The Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water. We created the EPA. The quality of life improved because concerned citizens made their issues matter in elections.

So it's up to you now to take up the challenge of your times if you want to restore a politics of big ideas, not small-minded attacks.

Make no mistake—you'll meet resistance. You'll find plenty of people who think you should just keep your mouths shut or that by speaking out you're somehow less than patriotic. But that's not really new either. When we protested the war in Vietnam some would weigh in against us saying: "My country right or wrong." Our response was simple: "Yes, my country right or wrong. When right, keep it right and when wrong, make it right."

Graduates of the Class of 2006, you know how to make it right—and you will see that it came from what you learned here: from a class so compelling you were awake at the crack of dawn to learn . . . from that night Teresa and I will never forget when you waited patiently till 4:15 at a polling place in Gambier . . . or from a coach who knew that her mission was to teach you how to win on and off the field.

Congratulations—and God Bless.●

HONORING THE COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, earlier this month I had the honor of joining Linda Springer, the director of the Office of Personnel Management, and John E. Potter, the Postmaster General of the United States, at a breakfast to kick off the four-day celebration on the National Mall celebrating Public Service Recognition Week. The annual Mall event is part of the yearly, week-long observance to celebrate and recognize public employees sponsored by the Public Employees Roundtable at the Council for Excellence in Government. While Director Springer and I gave brief remarks to the distinguished guests at the breakfast hosted by GEICO, I was extremely impressed by the words of the Postmaster General who gave the keynote address. I want my colleagues to have the opportunity to read Mr. Potter's words, which so eloquently explain why the millions of public servants at all levels of government should be recognized for the work they do daily on our behalf.

Mr. President, I ask that the address of Mr. Potter be printed in the RECORD.

The address follows.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS—POSTMASTER GENERAL/
CEO JOHN E. POTTER, MAY 4, 2006

Thank you, Chairman Harper, President McGinnis and our special guest, Director Springer.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognize and thank Tony Nicely, Chairman of GEICO, the sponsor of today's event.

Tony recently wrote about the efforts of Louisiana GEICO employees to serve their customers in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The local claims office was flooded and many employees lost everything. But they showed up at work to process claims and get those checks to policyholders as quickly as possible—through the mail, of course!

I know exactly what Tony has experienced. I was in New Orleans the week after the

storm and again, last month. If I learned nothing else, I learned about the frailty of the things we build. In the span of a few hours, Katrina broke open levees and brought down entire neighborhoods. Its winds dropped houses on highways and tossed ships on shore.

In the days and months since, we have seen repeatedly the one thing that could not be conquered by even this unprecedented storm—the human spirit.

One of the postal employees I talked with told me that the members of his extended family lost eight homes in and around New Orleans.

Yet, like him, hundreds of our people were back at work almost immediately. Within days of the storm, they set up temporary locations to get social security checks into the hands of thousands of local residents. Where they could, our carriers were back on the streets delivering mail. I know our customers appreciated their efforts to bring normalcy back to a very difficult situation.

So, let me welcome all of you and let me congratulate the millions of employees from every federal agency, the military, every state, every county, every city, every village—and volunteers everywhere throughout America.

Wherever you are, you serve your communities and your nation in so many ways. Public Service Recognition Week celebrates each and every one of you. It's an honor you've earned through outstanding efforts—and I salute you.

When I was asked to join you here, I didn't know that the Postal Service would be at the center of the news. By now, I'm sure you've heard that the Postal Service plans to adjust rates next spring.

Why? Well, our charter requires us to operate like a business—and to break even. But the Postal Service doesn't receive any tax money to pay for its operations—and we haven't for 25 years. When you boil it down, the American people pay for the operation of the world's largest and most efficient mail delivery system every time they buy a stamp.

Like each of you, and like every business and government agency in America, the Postal Service is not immune to rising costs. And given our size those costs can really add up. Each year, our 700,000 employees deliver 212 billion pieces of mail to 145 million homes and businesses—and that's growing by about 2 million new addresses every year.

They work from more than 37,000 Post Offices and drive more than 260,000 vehicles while delivering the mail. Every time the price of gas goes up just a penny, our costs go up \$8 million a year. And the price of gas has doubled since 2002, the last time we changed rates to offset growing operational costs. You can do the math.

Our people have a big job and they're doing it better than ever. Through their efforts, service and customer satisfaction have reached record levels. They've helped us improve efficiency six years running—and this year, we're expecting a seventh.

And by the time the price of a First-Class stamp goes up—one year from now—the average increase for that five year period will be exactly one penny a year—and be below the rate of inflation.

As I said, the Postal Service is required to operate like a business. And we're not alone. Across the board, all government agencies are working to become more business-like. There's a drive for efficiency. There's a drive for keeping costs down. There's a drive for measurable results. There's a drive to provide continuously improving service.

And that puts us all on the horns of a dilemma.

That's something I thought about when I had a conversation with Bill Russell a few

years ago. Most of you remember Bill as the cornerstone of the Boston Celtics back in the 60's. He was an incredible shot blocker who revolutionized defense in the NBA.

Bill is still active, although he's traded in his jersey with the big number 6 on it for a suit and tie. He's very involved in mentoring—helping children develop basic skills so they can turn their dreams into reality.

Bill joined us at a dedication for a stamp we issued to honor and encourage mentoring. When I was talking to Bill, he had a question for me.

"Jack, you're part of the government, but there's a lot of business in what you do, right?"

"That's right," I told him.

Then he asked me, "What kind of government do we have?"

I paid attention in school, so I was pretty confident when I said that we're a democracy.

But the quiz wasn't over yet. "What does that mean?" he asked.

"It means one person, one vote, equal rights for everybody, and we elect fellow citizens to represent us."

Then Bill told me that our government has evolved over time. It's a function of compromise—everyone comes to the table with their own interests.

So, at the end of the day, as a government entity, your mission is a dual mission. It's not just to deliver service. It's really much broader than that. It's about compromise. It's about change. It's about focus on mission. But it's about carrying out that mission with a very different perspective than others might bring to it.

There's an important message there. As Postmaster General, I have to stay focused on numbers—on-time delivery, cost per delivery, customer satisfaction, productivity, and, of course, making money or losing money. That's something everyone in government has to focus on, too.

That's the business end of things. But, as Postmaster General, I can never forget that my job is about more than just numbers. As a government agency, we can never operate like a pure business—and we shouldn't. There's a social aspect to everything we do.

We provide a useful and needed service—from the biggest cities to the smallest towns. We keep people in touch. We keep them connected. And we have to make sure we treat everyone equally. After all, our government doesn't belong to us, it belongs to everybody, no matter who they are, no matter where they are, no matter what their circumstances. So, when we make decisions, we have to keep that in mind.

Yes, we have to manage our budgets. Yes, we have to consider things like return on investment. Yes, we have to make our departments and our agencies more efficient than ever. Yes, we have a lot of scrutiny. And, yes, we answer to a lot of bosses—in my case, 280 million of them—and one boss who can really tell me how I'm doing—my wife Maureen.

But we can never forget one thing. Behind every program we propose or implement, there are people. There are families. There are businesses—large and small—providing jobs and opportunity for those families.

Each of them is relying on their government for the services that make so much else possible. And those services don't always lend themselves to a pure profit and loss statement. That's why government is different. And that's at the heart of public service.

When you choose a career in public service, there are tradeoffs. You'll never make the Forbes list of America's billionaires—unless you hit the Powerball a few times. And if you're like me, you've probably got a ticket

in your pocket! You'll never get to exercise a stock option as part of your benefit program. And that corporate jet? Well, I've always found that the Metro is pretty reliable.

But the satisfaction is priceless. How does it feel to give a child a head start by teaching her to read her first sentence? How do you put a price on the joy of the family whose idea you helped turn into a business? How do you measure the lives saved by the research grant that helped someone find a cure for a terrible disease? And how can you not be moved by the smile of a grandmother when she receives a birthday card from her first grandchild—whether she's in the next town, in a village in the Alaskan bush, or halfway across the ocean in Hawaii?

You do all of this, and more. As public employees, you have a tremendous responsibility. You have a tremendous record of performance. You represent the very best in public service. You—and everyone in public service—should be proud.

And at the Postal Service, that's something we think about every day. We have to. That's because we're the one government service that makes a personal visit to just about everyone in the nation, just about every day. For many Americans, we're the daily face of their government.

So, when they're judging us, they're also judging their government and, to a certain extent, they're judging you. Believe me, that's a powerful motivator for the Postal Service. We don't want to let you down—and we won't.

We're all about service—and it will stay that way. Service is part of our DNA. It's what we do. It's who we are. I'm proud to say that our people have remained focused on service and brought it to record levels. And that's been reflected in customer satisfaction ratings that are the envy of just about any organization.

Our history has been about service. We've helped build a great nation and bring its people together. We've been an important part of new business development—something we still do today.

Think about eBay, think about Netflix, think about Amazon. They're all smart, modern, internet-based companies that have become powerful economic engines that rely on the mail.

But, as I said, what we do—what we all do—is about more than just a simple business equation. I think of that every day when I hear about quiet heroes, like Mike Miller, a letter carrier from a suburb of New Orleans.

Mike rode out Hurricane Katrina in his houseboat. After the storm, he saw total destruction everywhere. With a friend, Mike took his inflatable, motorized boat and responded to cries of help for four straight days, ferrying hundreds of people from rooftops to higher ground.

In one case, Mike stopped when he thought he heard sounds coming from a house that was almost completely submerged. With no way in, he pulled his boat to the roof, yanked off a vent pipe and yelled down. He heard a faint response and, with his friend, frantically pulled off roof tiles, cut through the beams, and dropped into the attic.

Groping through the darkness, heat and water, he discovered an elderly woman, barely alive. They lifted her through the opening in the roof and brought her to safety. Looking back, Mike said, "I was just doing what had to be done."

To Mike Miller, and to so many others like him, I say, "Thank you!"

When I think about people like Mike, and every one of our employees who bring their best to the job every day, I know we can meet just about any challenge that comes our way. And Mike's not alone. There are

people like him all across the government. People serving people. People willing to do what it takes—and then some.

In closing, let me recognize the men and women of the Postal Service, and every government employee, from the smallest villages, to the largest cities; from every county, every state and every federal agency.

You make our nation and your community a better place with all that you do. You have earned the recognition you are receiving this week. I salute you and I am honored to be one of you.

Thank you.●

CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the 2006 recipients of the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards. These prestigious awards, commonly called the EDies, are presented each year to individuals and schools who demonstrate the highest level of excellence in education.

The recipients of the EDies are chosen based on certain criteria, including student achievement, leadership, and decisionmaking; community and parental involvement; school climate, curriculum, and instruction; and the teaching and learning process. I am proud to recognize the 34 individuals, 3 schools, 1 department, and 1 school board who will receive this distinctive honor on June 10, 2006.

The EDies awarded in various categories, including school board, principal, and superintendent of the year, as well as schools of excellence at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition, individuals are recognized for their contributions in specific subject areas, such as social studies, music, and business education. There is also an award in memory of New Hampshire's own Christa McAuliffe, whom we lost 20 years ago as she courageously embarked on her journey to be the first teacher in space.

As an elected official, parent, and former student of the New Hampshire public school system, I have had the opportunity to meet and learn from many educators across the Granite State, including some of this year's award recipients. Their dedication to providing students with the tools they need to become productive and engaged citizens is commendable and the basis for the superior achievement of New Hampshire's schools. I am personally grateful to the teachers at every level of my own education who provided me with the guidance necessary to succeed.

The EDies provide us with an opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of our State's educational community. I am pleased to recognize them here today and to convey the gratitude of my State for the role each of this year's recipients have played in the lives of New Hampshire's children.

Mr. President, I ask that the list of the 2006 New Hampshire Excellence in

Education Award winners and school finalists be printed in the RECORD.

The list follows.

2006 NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Rebecca Albert, Deborah Boisvert, Norma J. Bursaw, Marcia B. Connors, Meaghan B. Cronin, Richard Dunning, James N. Elefante, Nancy Frantz Clough, Kathleen Frick, CarolAnn Gregorious, Kimberly Kenney, Phillip K. Martin, Kathleen C. McCabe, Carole A. Smart, Emily K. Spear, Linda A. Vincent, Bruce R. Wheeler, David Alcox, Gregg M. Brighenti, Jaffrey Caron, W. Michael Cozort, Elizabeth M. Curran, Carol A. Dupuis, Mary E. Fay, Deborah Franzoni, Rick Glatz, Esther Kennedy, Lisa MacLean, Dr. Dennise Maslakowski, Thomas Prive, Deanne Soderberg, Gregory S. Superchi, Richard C. Walter, Jr., Doris E. Williams.

Academy of Learning and Technology: Nashua High School North, Pennichuck Middle School Technology Department, Lafayette Regional School, Oyster River Coop. School Board.

SECONDARY SCHOOL FINALISTS

Goffstown High School, Pembroke Academy, Prospect Mountain High School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINALISTS

Indian River School, Oyster River Middle School.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FINALISTS

Hollis Primary and Upper Elementary School, South Londonderry Elementary School.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS W. TAYLOR

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas W. Taylor, the Senior Deputy General Counsel of the Army, for his exceptionally meritorious service to our country. Mr. Taylor will retire on June 3, 2006, having completed 36 years of superb military and Federal civilian service with the Department of the Army, the last 19 of which have been as a member of the Senior Executive Service. As such, he has been at the forefront of the most critical issues affecting our Nation and the military today. His commitment to upholding the rule of law in the service of the national defense has been the bedrock grounding many of the Army's mission successes. We owe him a particular debt of gratitude for the genuine and enduring concern he has demonstrated for the welfare of our men and women in uniform and their families, particularly in the face of the many sacrifices our Nation has demanded of them over the last decades.

Mr. Taylor's remarkable career as a selfless and committed servant of the public trust culminated in his appointment in 1997 as Senior Deputy General Counsel, the Department's senior career civilian attorney. Mr. Taylor has long been the foundation of strategic leadership, vision, and continuity for the Army legal community. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has provided sage policy and legal advice to six Secretaries of the Army, seven Army General Counsel, and numerous other senior officers in the Army Secretariat, and Headquarters, Department of the Army, on a wide va-

riety of operational issues, including military support to civilian authorities; during special events of national significance, such as the Olympic Games and Presidential Inaugurals; in responding to domestic disasters and civil disturbances; and in fighting drugs and weapons of mass destruction. His personnel law portfolio covered the full range of military and civilian personnel law: mobilization, recruitment, promotions, discharges, medical care issues, sexual harassment, and equal employment opportunity. Other practice areas included select aspects of criminal law, implementation of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act as applied to the Army, Secretarial and command authority, and application of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, as well as policies governing the release of information under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts in response to public, Congressional, and media requests for information about Army activities and investigations. Further, Mr. Taylor discharged the Department's legal responsibility for intelligence oversight, monitoring Army intelligence and counterintelligence operations worldwide and overseeing legal and policy aspects of special access programs and intelligence support to other Federal agencies. In 2001, he was the senior Army lawyer at the Pentagon site on September 11, providing advice enabling immediate on-scene military support to security and recovery operations. He has represented the Army and DoD in matters with Congress and other Federal agencies, as well as to foreign countries. Beginning in the Reagan administration and during extended transitional periods between successive administration appointees, Mr. Taylor often has been selected personally by Secretaries of the Army to discharge the duties of the General Counsel. Most recently, he has served in that capacity since July of 2005.

Mr. Taylor was raised in Pilot Mountain, NC, and is a graduate of public schools in North Carolina. He earned a B.A. in history with high honors from Guilford College, Greensboro, NC, in 1966, and a J.D. with honors in 1969 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif and a staff member of the law review, which published three of his notes. After graduating from law school, he was commissioned as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the Army. He first served at Fort Wainwright, AK, followed by tours at Fulda and Darmstadt, Germany. Returning to the United States, Mr. Taylor taught from 1975 to 1978 in the law department of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, serving as professor to many of the Army's future leaders. Later, after tours of duty in the office of the Judge Advocate General in the Pentagon and in a nominative position as an Assistant to the Army General Counsel, he